

Appl. No. 10/694,930
Reply to Office Action of May 25, 2005

REMARKS

The interview granted by Examiner Purol on August 17, 2005 was greatly appreciated and it is felt an understanding was reached as to the patentable features of the invention. More specifically, it was identified that the S-shaped configuration of the vanes or strips of material found in the covering of the invention when the covering was in an open position was not shown or suggested in the prior art when combined with the other elements of the claims. It should be pointed out that in the open position of the covering, the S-shaped vanes extend substantially perpendicularly to the material from which they are suspended. It was further identified that the prior art did not show the use of vanes that were rigidified in some portions and free of rigidification in other regions even though it was the examiner's opinion that the broader reference to such vanes having regions of different physical characteristics would be met by the prior art.

The claims as previously submitted have been amended herein to be consistent with the understandings reached during the aforementioned interview and specific reference to the changes to the claims will be made hereafter.

Referring first to independent claim 1, upon which claims 2, 3, and 6 are dependent, it will be noted it has been amended to state the panel for use in a covering for architectural openings includes a sheet of fabric and at least two strings with a plurality of spaced parallel and flexible longitudinal extending fabric vanes extending therebetween and being connected thereto in a specified manner. The claim has been amended to state the panel is movable between an open position wherein the sheet and strings are maximally spaced from each other and a closed position adjacent to each other so as to be spaced only by the fabric vanes and further wherein the fabric vanes

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are of S-shaped configuration when the covering is in the open position. It is believed this amendment to the claims is consistent with the conclusions reached during the interview and, accordingly, claim 1, as well as claims 2, 3, and 6 which are dependent thereon, are felt to be in allowable form.

Independent claim 7 has been amended similarly to state the covering defined therein is movable between an open position wherein the sheet and strings are maximally spaced from each other and a closed position adjacent to each other so as to be spaced only by the vanes and wherein the vanes are of S-shaped configuration in the open position of the covering. Accordingly, it is felt claim 7 is also in allowable form as well as claims 8-10, 12 and 13, which are dependent thereon.

Independent claim 14 already recited that the covering was movable between defined open and closed positions but has been amended herein to state the strips of material are of S-shaped configuration when the covering is in the open position. Again, it is felt the claim is consistent with the understandings reached during the interview and therefore in allowable form.

Independent claim 15 previously referred to the flexible strips of material as having edge portions and a central portion with the edge and central portions being of different physical characteristics. The claim has been amended to state that rather than being of different physical characteristics, the strips of material are treated in one of said edge or central portions with a stiffening agent and are free of the stiffening agent in the other of the edge or central portions. This feature of the invention was also not felt to be shown or suggested by the prior art and, accordingly, claim 15 is now felt to be in allowable form.

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Independent claim 16 previously stated the strips of material interconnecting the first and second sheets of material were capable of assuming an S-shaped configuration when disposed substantially perpendicular to the sheets of material but the claim has been amended to state that the strips of material are of S-shaped configuration when disposed substantially perpendicular to the sheets of material. As mentioned above, when the strips of material are perpendicular to the sheets of material, the covering is in an open position.

It is felt the claims have been amended to be consistent with the conclusions reached during the aforementioned interview as reflected in the interview summary of August 17, 2005, and, accordingly, the claims are felt to be allowable. There being no other outstanding rejections or objections to the application, it is felt the application is in condition for allowance and such action is courteously requested.

Dated this 23rd day of August 2005.

Respectfully submitted,



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